



Re-Discover Montana's Outdoors

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS | 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



*Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks*



A financial investment with a good return may be difficult to find for awhile, but now is still a great time to invest in Montana's outdoors.

Enjoy the state's outdoor recreation, magnificent hunting and fishing opportunities, and one-of-a-kind state parks. Time and energy spent in the outdoors is an investment certain to retain value and pay long-term dividends. And don't forget the measurable economic benefits that wildlife viewers, hunters, anglers and campers bring to our local communities. This is the year to invest in Montana and reap the rewards!

Please enjoy this 2011 FWP Annual Report. It is dedicated to helping you re-discover and reconnect with Montana's fish, wildlife and parks.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor of Montana

JOE MAURIER
FWP Director

Learn more: This annual report only touches on the important issues and activities that FWP is actively engaged in. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offers many resources to enable you to dig deeper into the issues, including video reports, trail cams, *Montana Outdoors* magazine articles and in-depth web pages. Look for the icons found throughout this report to connect to the bigger picture.



TRAIL
CAM



WEB
PAGE



WATCH
VIDEO



MAGAZINE
ARTICLE



WEATHER MAKES BIG NEWS

Bitter cold and record-breaking snowfall made winter 2011 one of the toughest in years for wildlife. By April 1, Glasgow had received 112 inches of snow, six feet more than average. Temperatures dropped to minus 40 degrees F on the Hi-Line for days at a time.



Pheasants took a beating in many areas, while antelope populations suffered extraordinarily high winter mortality too. There was no doubt by spring that FWP would lower the number of mule deer and antelope hunting licenses to help rebuild these populations.

Then in spring the flooding hit. FWP, in cooperation with local authorities across the state, closed 50 fishing access sites and sections of two rivers due to high water and flood conditions. Conditions were very dangerous on many rivers, large and small.

Though the flooding threatened many eastern Montana communities, the high water benefitted warm water fish, including the endangered pallid sturgeon. At least five Missouri River radio-tagged adult pallid sturgeon reached the Milk River for the first time in decades. One adult male pallid sturgeon traveled 36 miles upriver, the furthest up the Milk a pallid has been recorded in recent times. A female thought to be ready to spawn was also tracked on the river.



The tremendous volume of water down the Milk and Missouri rivers also resulted in sustained flows from Fort Peck dam's spillway—the first since the 1990's. In July, FWP biologists captured a wild pallid sturgeon larva in the Missouri River below the spillway, only the second wild larva found in recent times. Biologists believe this larva was successfully produced in part because 2011's spring runoff mimicked the natural spawning conditions pallids once knew. Pallid sturgeon are endangered today in part because river conditions and the cold, controlled water coming from man-made reservoirs do not foster their traditional spawning and survival behaviors.



In other positive notes, ground water systems and wetlands were recharged, and cottonwood seedlings sprouted from the new layer of sediment deposited on flooded hay and crop fields along the Musselshell, Yellowstone, Missouri, and other river floodplains. This year's dramatic response to a large-scale flood event suggests cottonwood regeneration on many rivers may be an "episodic" renewal over the span of years.

Above: Antelope plowed through deep snow and hundreds were killed by trains in northeastern Montana as they tried to migrate using the railroad tracks.



Hunting

HISTORIC DEADLINE CHANGES FOR 2012

The application deadline for all resident and nonresident deer and elk permits moved from June 1 to March 15. FWP will provide drawing results for special elk and deer permits in mid-April rather than the end of July, giving successful applicants more time for vacation and hunt planning.



WATERFOWL POPULATIONS UP

The annual federal waterfowl survey reported 10 primary duck species' populations hit a combined total 45.6 million—a record high since the survey began in 1955. The 2011 waterfowl population was 11 percent above 2010 numbers. Mallards, the most sought-after waterfowl species in the state, increased nine percent from last year to 9.2 million, 22 percent above the long-term average.



NONRESIDENT LICENSE SALES LOSSES

For the first time ever some nonresident big game hunting opportunities were not claimed. FWP's total loss of revenue from nonresident combination licenses was \$759,205.

NONRESIDENT PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM

Under a new preference point system, FWP distributes nonresident big game combination and deer combination licenses to nonresident hunters with the most preference points. The points can be purchased at any time for a nonrefundable fee of \$50 per point.

INCREASED PUBLIC COMMENT

FWP introduced a new public comment opportunity before December's season setting to increase public participation. About 150 people commented on a variety of species and issues. Email appeared to be the favored communications channel.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A 10-member elk archery hunting working group looked at regulations in several north-central Montana hunting districts, including the Missouri Breaks and 22 other elk hunting districts. The group's role, to reach consensus on a set of objectives and recommendations, resulted in a set of options that the FWP Commission agreed to seek public comment on.



Wildlife

WOLVES

The second wolf hunt in recent history was extended by the FWP Commission to Feb 15. Congress delisted wolves in Montana and Idaho in April, when lawmakers in Washington, D. C., passed a budget bill that included a bipartisan rider. Wolves are now managed under the state's highly regarded wolf conservation and management plan. Interest groups have challenged Congress' wolf delisting action in federal court.

ELK IN THE BITTERROOT

FWP and the University of Montana initiated a three-year study of elk calf losses in the upper Bitterroot Valley and potential remedies. Grass-roots contributions of \$25-\$10,000 from myriad sources support the study. Increased predator quotas hopefully will help buffer elk for now.



Also in response to low calf recruitment, hunting in elk hunting district 250, the West Fork of the Bitterroot, was "by special permit only" for the first time in the hunting district's history. FWP also proposed unlimited permits for brow-tined bulls in hunting district HD270, on the East Fork of the Bitterroot, if the public and the FWP Commission approves.



FUTURE OF BISON CONSIDERED

A move to relocate 68 disease-free bison to the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian reservations was approved by the FWP Commission. The bison will move only when agreements are reached with the tribes and appropriate fencing is in place. For a history of bison, go to fwp.mt.gov under For Fish & Wildlife Information—click on "Bison Background."



BIGHORN SHEEP HAVE A PLAN

2011 saw approval of Montana's first Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy. Montana now claims nearly half the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep entered in the Boone and Crockett Club records. The state is home to some 5,700 bighorn sheep in 40-45 distinct populations.



Above: In February 2011, a helicopter crew used net guns to capture 44 cow elk in the upper Bitterroot watershed. FWP wildlife biologists fitted the elk with radio GPS collars so they can monitor the animals' habitat use and locate newborn calves.



GRIZZLY RECOVERY EXPANDS

Grizzly bears are pushing onto the plains of Montana as their numbers increase. About 900 grizzly bears inhabit in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem from Glacier National Park to the southern border of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Some 600 grizzlies inhabit the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem surrounding Yellowstone National Park.



- ▶ additional biologists on the ground, and a successful, citizen-led strategic planning process.

Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program funds made up about 36 percent of project costs in fiscal year 2011, down from 56 percent in 2010, thanks to contributions made by cooperators and other partners. For more, go to fwp.mt.gov.



UPLAND GAME BIRD HABITAT EXPANDS

Premium upland game bird habitat is expanding through FWP's newly energized Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program. Among the revamped program's assets:

- ▶ increased funding through partnerships with federal agencies and private conservation groups,
- ▶ in-kind labor from landowners who allow reasonable public hunting,

Above: Two new upland game bird biologists and a new wildlife biologist in Plentywood are focusing on improving habitat on public land and with interested private landowners. Pictured above is Miles City area biologist Ashley Beyer.



Marshall Creek WMA

Habitat

THESE LANDS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN MONTANA'S WILD FUTURE

FWP completed land conservation projects in 2011 on a variety of landscapes for wildlife habitat and recreation.

The Lower Beaver Creek conservation easement near Hinsdale added about 450 acres to a productive complex of wetlands, cottonwood forest, riparian habitat and interspersed farmland in northeastern Montana's Milk River Valley.

In central Montana, FWP acquired a public road easement accessing Haymaker Wildlife Management Area and thousands of acres of nearby national forest land.

FWP conservation easements also now protect important river bottom habitat on the Riverdale farm near Cascade and thousands of acres of native prairie on the Moline Ranch in the Missouri Breaks of Chouteau County.

In the Swan Valley of northwestern Montana, a 160-acre acquisition brought FWP's ownership to nearly four square miles of forested habitat, home to grizzly bear, lynx, bull trout, elk, deer and a host of other wildlife species.

The 24,000-acre Marshall Creek Wildlife Management Area north of Seeley Lake is also now complete, with significant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This

WMA secures fish and wildlife habitat for lynx, spawning bull trout, and other high-profile species. Portions of Marshall Creek WMA and the West Swan conservation easement are wolf and grizzly bear connectivity corridors essential for maintaining the genetic diversity required by the federal government before a species can be delisted.

PRIVATE DONATIONS HELP MAKE THE FUTURE BRIGHT

Pine Grove Pond fishing access site was completed thanks to a donation by the Street Family. The donation included 13 acres northeast of Kalispell near the Whitefish River, including a 5-acre pond. Other lands became available to the public through the foresight and generosity of individuals, one of whom donated 68 acres in the mountain foothills of the Bitterroot Valley, adding to critical elk winter range on the Calf Creek WMA.

NOXIOUS WEED NOTE

FWP's noxious weed fighting effort includes management activities at about 610 sites totaling more than 470,000 acres. FWP works with state, federal and county programs, and spends about \$650,000 a year for on-the-ground weed control and other management. About \$205,000 of that goes to private landowners through the Block Management weed management incentive payment.





Fishing

FISHING ACCESS SITES FLOODED

Spring flooding caused almost \$600,000 in damage to FWP facilities. A total of 34 FASs, four fishery projects, five state parks, and three WMAs were significantly impacted. FWP assisted FEMA in assessing the damages, resulting in a total of \$440,980 in federal assistance.

High water eroded roads and boat ramps, washed out barriers that prevent fish migration and dikes in waterfowl production areas. Sheet flooding, depositing silt several feet deep in some instances, buried infrastructure—even some picnic tables.

FWP regional maintenance staff tackled the job. With few exceptions, facilities were at least partially open to visitors by midsummer. Work on major projects will continue into next construction season.

NEW FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 2012

The FWP Commission approved 44 fishing regulation changes for 2012-2015 during a once-in-every-four-year full review of the regulations. Nearly 500 anglers participated.

The changes include 14 related to sport fish management, 12 to clarify or simplify existing regulations, eight to establish

family fishing waters—among others.

ANNUAL FISHING NEWSLETTER A HIT

FWP produces an Annual Fishing Newsletter to help anglers prepare for fishing season. Local fisheries biologists file detailed reports on the status of Montana's fisheries and the state's heralded rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs. The newsletter is online at fwp.mt.gov in eBook format at the beginning of fishing season.



RIVER RECREATION MANAGEMENT

FWP received more than 600 comments on proposed changes to the boating regulations on the Blackfoot, Clark Fork, and Bitterroot rivers near Missoula. The changes are intended to address public safety concerns and conflicts between motorized and nonmotorized river users. The new regulations prohibit personal watercraft and place motor-size restrictions and seasonal closures on some sections of these rivers.



FWP also announced that it will be developing a recreation management plan for the Madison River in southwestern Montana in 2012. The Madison has been the most heavily fished river in Montana in recent years.

Above: Cleanup on the Blackfoot River



BIG SPRING CREEK/HATCHERY PCB CLEAN UP

PCB-contaminated paint was used at the Big Springs Trout Hatchery near Lewistown until the 1970s. Some of this paint remained at the hatchery and some found its way into Big Spring Creek.

FWP won a settlement from Monsanto Corporation, manufacturer of PCBs, in 2010 to help fund a three-year cleanup of the hatchery and creek. Work began in 2011, with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval, including suction-dredging paint chips and contaminated sediment from the creek bottom. Nearly 0.9 miles of the 2.8 stretch of contaminated creek has been dredged, with the remainder scheduled in 2012 and 2013.



The PCB contaminated Lower Hatchery raceways at Big Springs State Fish Hatchery were demolished. New hatchery raceways should be completed by summer 2012 and restocked with fish.

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Future Fisheries Review Panel and the FWP Commission approved funding for 30 restoration projects totaling \$850,000. This funding will generate \$1.52 million in matching contributions. Funded projects include:



- ▶ fish screens to prevent loss of fish into irrigation diversions;
- ▶ riparian protection and spawning habitat enhancement;
- ▶ in-stream flow enhancement;
- ▶ fish passage improvements at road crossings and irrigation diversions; and
- ▶ fish-migration barriers to protect native cutthroat trout.

Above: Future Fisheries work on Little Prickly Pear Creek



Species and Habitat Health

YELLOWSTONE RIVER OIL SPILL

On July 1, an ExxonMobil pipeline carrying crude oil from Wyoming to Billings broke beneath the Yellowstone River at Laurel, spilling an estimated 42,000 gallons of oil into the river.

Within hours, FWP joined a growing army of state, federal, local and industry officials in a months-long project to assess the damage and start cleanup. Airplanes, helicopters, dozens of jet boats and ATVs and—at one point—more than 1,000 workers attacked the problem around the clock.

Fisheries and wildlife biologists and technicians joined teams that walked hundreds of miles of shoreline, finding oil and recommending cleanup methods. Managers and administrators worked to ensure that the cleanup did not exacerbate the damage. As winter set in and the cleanup effort wound down, FWP's efforts shifted to assessment of Montana's fish, wildlife and riparian habitat and any long-term consequences of oil left on the landscape.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

FWP, the Montana Department of Agriculture, and local counties are encouraging Montanans and visitors to “Inspect, Clean and Dry” boats, trailers and fishing gear to “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.” Traveling check stations inspected more than 7,000 watercraft headed for Montana's waters for AIS. If invasive species are found on a vessel, state officials decontaminate it.

MULE DEER AND WHITE-TAILED DEER LOSSES

Reports from several eastern Montana locations indicate a disease caused by tiny, biting insects took a serious toll on resident white-tailed deer populations. Deaths from EHD—epizootic hemorrhagic disease—have occurred in central and eastern Montana. In some hard-hit areas, FWP advised hunters to expect fewer white-tailed deer harvest opportunities than in past years. In fact, the disease outbreak compounded the 2010-11 winter-kill population declines that in part resulted in FWP rolling back the sale of surplus white-tailed deer “B” licenses in northeastern Montana.





BIGHORN SHEEP LOSSES

Maintaining bands of wild sheep and increasing their numbers is a delicate balancing act. Bighorn sheep are among the few wildlife species that can lose an entire herd in a single season. The problem is a bacteria that causes pneumonia in wild sheep. In the past three years, about 1,400 bighorn sheep have been lost to pneumonia. Montana's bighorn sheep management plan addresses these and other issues. Review it on the FWP website, or see the March/April 2011 *Montana Outdoors* magazine.



STEPPED UP ELK BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE

FWP began a federally funded five-year study to gather information on how prevalent brucellosis is, where exposure to it occurs in elk in southwest Montana and the effects of exposure on elk. Several common brucellosis testing methods will also be evaluated. The expanded study is part of an ongoing effort to better understand and manage the risk of brucellosis transmission in Montana. The study is in cooperation with the Montana Department of Livestock and the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



Above: Efforts are underway to monitor brucellosis where cattle interact with elk.



Enforcement

REALITY TV

FWP wardens starred in a reality show series on the Outdoor Channel titled “WARDENS.” Enthusiastic viewers shared the action with game wardens on the job, boosting “WARDENS” to the number one rated program on the Outdoor Channel. In 2012, the 30-minute episodes will expand to 60 minutes.



Over the past year, FWP Wardens—

Contacted:

- ▶ about 92,000 hunters and anglers in the field;
- ▶ more than 31,600 boat, snowmobile and OHV users;
- ▶ 14,700 park users; and
- ▶ more than 9,600 landowners regarding violations, block management and game damage;

Wardens also:

- ▶ issued 6,880 verbal warnings;
- ▶ wrote 2,459 warnings and 4,580 citations; and
- ▶ participated in more than 900 hunter education and public presentations.

MAJOR WILDLIFE CRIME

The Enforcement Bureau focuses on unlawful commercialization of Montana’s wild resources. The million-dollar, illicit poaching “industry” robs legitimate hunters and anglers of resources and opportunities. Major investigations and convictions resulted in thousands of dollars in fines, restitution and loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for extended periods or for life.

TIP-MONT: MONTANA’S 1-800-847-6668 CRIME STOPPERS HOT LINE

As the popularity of the TIP-MONT program grows, so do the number of investigations resulting from citizens’ tips. Many violations would go unreported if private citizens didn’t make the call to TIP-MONT. Reports that lead to convictions may result in rewards of up to \$1,000. In 2011, TIP-MONT paid out more than \$16,000 in rewards and received about 2,000 calls for the year. Many callers decline a reward. TIP-MONT was established in 1985.



Above: Still shot from the TV show “Wardens”



Communication

MONTANA WILD OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER OPENS

“Montana WILD—A place for outdoor discovery and conservation at Spring Meadow Lake State Park.”

The center’s official grand opening is set for August 2012, after years of planning, fund-raising, and construction. The 7,000 square foot building, on five acres adjacent to Spring Meadow Lake State Park, is now fully refurbished with funding assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Foundation For Animals, the FWP Foundation and other sources, the facility includes a wet lab, classroom with microscopes, an indoor stream and aquarium, interpretive displays, an archery range, and fishing dock. Montana’s Hunter and Bowhunter Education, Angler Education, Shooting Range Grants, Water Safety and Becoming An Outdoors Woman programs are now managed from the Montana Wild facility.

FWP WEBSITE IS NEWS CENTRAL

FWP’s newly designed website is ‘news central’ for hunters, anglers and recreationists across the state. FWP continuously feeds its web news to a variety of news outlets and outdoor constituency groups’ websites through its RSS feeds, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.

MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE IS TOPS

For the fourth time in the past seven years, *Montana Outdoors* was named the nation’s number one state conservation magazine by the Association for Conservation Information. Montana Outdoors is read by 75,000 Montanans each year.

STREAMING AUDIO OF FWP COMMISSION MEETINGS

To tune into the audio portion of FWP Commission meetings from literally anywhere in the world, go to the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov and click Commission Information during FWP Commission meetings.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONNECTS MONTANANS WITH FWP

Information is at the core of nearly everything FWP does—fish and wildlife surveys, setting hunting quotas and fishing regulations, documenting public comments and much more. Advanced information systems are streamlining the collection and analysis of data and the decision-making around that data, saving significant time, reducing errors, and better connecting Montanans with FWP.

Above: Fish of Montana workshop at Montana Wild



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DATA SERVICES

Strategic Planning and Data Services staff assisted FWP field biologists, state/federal agencies, local governments, businesses, and conservation organizations in using a new web-based mapping tool called CAPS—the Crucial Areas Planning System. CAPS helps planners include fish and wildlife considerations early on when planning energy and residential development projects, environmental assessments, and conservation. CAPS is based on FWP’s assessments of significant landscapes and the fish and wildlife movement corridors essential to landscape-scale management of species and habitats.



The bureau also provided hunters with interactive web-based mapping systems with the latest information on Block Management areas and quotas for wolf, bear, and lion.

BOW

FWP’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program helps growing numbers of women gain outdoor skills through workshops on fly fishing, horse packing, flower identification, ice fishing, snowshoeing, upland game bird hunting and much more. FWP’s BOW Program is now managed from the new Montana Wild Outdoor Learning Center in Helena.



SHOOTING RANGES

Montana has more than 150 shooting ranges, many in small communities where the range may be one of only a few family recreational facilities available. Montana communities that benefited from Montana’s Shooting Range grant program in 2011 include: Big Sandy, Butte, Glasgow, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Lewistown, Livingston, Missoula, Noxon, Polson, and White Sulphur Springs.



Above: Canoe lessons at Summer Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop



Wild Horse Island State Park

Montana State Parks and Recreation

Visit Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) and enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and more and discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on earth.

VALUABLE

Montana's 54 State Parks represent a great value to our residents and visitors—there are no daily entrance fees for residents. The Montana State Parks system is a proven economic engine to Montana, with residents and out of state visitors to state parks generating an estimated \$289 million dollars in revenue to local economies in 2010. An economic impact study by the University of Montana reports revenue generated by visitors to Montana State Parks helped create nearly 1,600 tourism-related jobs in businesses including grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, motels, retail and more.



SATISFYING

More than 95 percent of resident visitors are satisfied with their state parks, the UM survey states.

ENGAGING

In 2011, more than 20,000 Montana students participated in educational programs presented and hosted by Montana State Parks staff.



More than 1,300 volunteers dedicated their time with Montana State Parks giving 46,748 hours of service as campground hosts, visitor center greeters, maintenance workers, interpretive guides and more—the equivalent of 20 additional full-time employees.



ONE-OF-A-KIND

Montana State Parks administers seven National Historic Landmark sites noted as historic places with exceptional value that illustrate or interpret the heritage of the United States. Montana State Parks administers 10 National Register of Historic Places designated as worthy of preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.





MONTANA STATE PARKS HERITAGE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

- ▶ Montana State University conducted a field school at Medicine Rocks State Park that involved documenting historic and prehistoric images carved into sandstone outcrops found throughout the park.
- ▶ The University of Montana held a field school at Rosebud Battlefield State Park where students recorded and mapped various 1876 battle locations. Future field studies conducted at both parks will rely on assistance from volunteers and tribal members. 
- ▶ Rosebud Battlefield State Park partnered with the University of Montana and received an American Battlefield Protection Program grant for survey and mapping work.
- ▶ Montana State Parks collaborated with the University of Montana and Alter Enterprises on a distance learning satellite program originating from Pictograph Cave for elementary and college students.
- ▶ Montana State Parks is collaborating with the University of Montana on establishing a system for researchers to access collections maintained at Pictograph Cave and Fort Owen.
- ▶ Chief Plenty Coups State Park's fire suppression system was updated, including replacement of the fire protection system for Chief Plenty Coups' home and the Visitor Center. 
- ▶ Montana State Parks applied for and received federal funding to initiate an AmeriCorps program. The National Service AmeriCorps Program members will help enrich natural, cultural and heritage education programs, expand the Parks' volunteer efforts and help build community outreach. 

Above: Rosebud Battlefield State Park field school students



2011 NEW CAMPSITE RESERVATION PROGRAM LAUNCHES

In March 2011, Montana State Parks launched a new campsite reservation program at 20 state parks, 12 of them equipped with electrical hookups. The new reservation program allows campers to choose from more than 500 campsites and reserve sites online at stateparks.mt.gov, or by phone at 1-855-922-6768, up to nine months in advance of their visit. About 25 percent of the state parks system's campsites are held out for traditional first-come, first-served camping.



Montana State Parks' online reservation sites include: Bannack, Beavertail Hill, Big Arm, Black Sandy, Brush Lake, Cooney, Finley Point, Hell Creek, Lake Mary Ronan, Lewis & Clark Caverns, Logan, Makoshika, Missouri Headwaters, Placid Lake, Salmon Lake, Thompson Falls, Tongue River Reservoir, Wayfarers, West Shore, and Whitefish Lake.

SUMMER SEASON VISITATION HIGHER THAN 5-YEAR AVERAGE

More than 1.2 million people visited Montana State Parks May-August—a slight increase over the past five year's average. Giant Springs State Park hosted the most visitors last summer with more than 146,000 visits. Regionally, the Kalispell area with 278,000 visits and the Billings area with 260,000 visits saw the most summer use.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In 2011, Montana State Parks administered more than \$2.3 million in federal and state grants to local communities, organizations, tribal governments and others in Montana through the Recreational Trails program, Off-Highway Vehicle and Snowmobile programs and Land & Water Conservation Fund grants. LWCF grants are for community recreational facility and infrastructure improvements including ball parks, public parks, playgrounds and more.



The four grant programs provide an important funding source for outdoor recreation in Montana.

Above: Visitors pose at Wild Horse Island State Park



Big Arm State Park

Revenue Parks Division

Montana State Parks receives no general fund support and no funding from fishing and hunting licensing.

USER FEES AND LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE

Parks' Earned Revenues include entrance camping, and special use fees and a light vehicle registration fee on passenger cars and light trucks. Of the \$4 light vehicle registration fee, \$3.50 goes to state parks, 25 cents to fishing access sites and another 25 cents to the Montana Heritage Commission for maintaining Virginia City and Nevada City.

OTHER STATE FUNDING

- ▶ **Coal Tax Trust Earnings:** A portion of the interest earned from the Coal Tax Trust account goes to develop, operate and maintain the state park system.
- ▶ **Motorboat Fuel Tax:** Revenue from the state gasoline dealers' license tax is used to create, improve and maintain state parks where motorboats are allowed.
- ▶ **Off-Highway Vehicle and Snowmobile registration and decal fees:** These are used for the promotion of safety and education, development and support of the OHV

and snowmobile programs.

- ▶ **Fuel Tax:** A portion of the state gasoline dealers' license tax supports OHV and snowmobile safety, education and grants to local users' clubs for equipment and trail maintenance.

STATUTORY FUNDING

Under state law, 6.5 percent of the 4 percent Lodging Facility Use Tax charged by lodging facilities goes to maintain state parks.

PROPRIETARY REVENUE

- ▶ Sales of educational, commemorative and interpretive merchandise and other goods and services at state parks and other designated locations.

FEDERAL FUNDING

- ▶ Federal dollars from the sale of fishing equipment and tackle (Wallop-Breaux) support state parks where motorboats are allowed.
- ▶ Federal dollars for Recreational Trails Program grants are distributed to local communities, organizations, state parks and tribal governments for outdoor recreation infrastructure on public lands.
- ▶ Additional federal funding for state and local parks comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Revenue

Fish & Wildlife Division

FWP's Fish and Wildlife Division includes five programs: Wildlife, Communication and Education, Fisheries, Law Enforcement, and Strategic Planning and Data Services. The programs are funded by statutory revenue, hunting and fishing license revenue, other state revenue and federal funds.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE REVENUE

- ▶ This license revenue source includes all license sales, interest earnings and miscellaneous revenues. About two-thirds of FWP's license revenue comes from nonresident license sales.

STATUTORY REVENUE

- ▶ Statutory revenue is revenue appropriated specifically by Montana law—for example, to support operations, maintenance and forest management on the state's wildlife management areas.

OTHER STATE REVENUE

- ▶ The Fish and Wildlife Division receives revenue from other state sources. For example, the nongame income tax check-off contributions made by taxpayers support nongame species management and improving wildlife viewing opportunities.

FEDERAL FUNDS

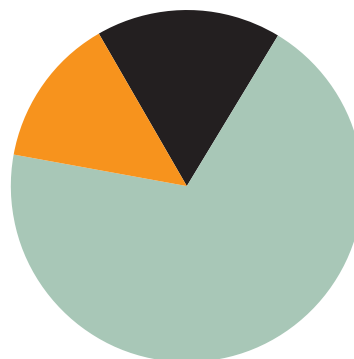
- ▶ More than \$10.16 million came from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, handguns and certain archery equipment (Pittman-Robertson). About \$8.6 million in federal funding came from an excise tax on fishing equipment and electric trolling motors, a federal fuel tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats (Dingell-Johnson). These federal funds were matched by hunting and angling license dollars.
- ▶ Montana received \$825,379 from the State Wildlife Grant Program to help fund research and management programs for species that have special conservation needs. These federal funds were matched by hunting and angling license dollars.

Management & Finance Division

FWP's third major division includes management, finance, the director's office, human resources and legal functions.

FWP PLANNED EXPENDITURES:

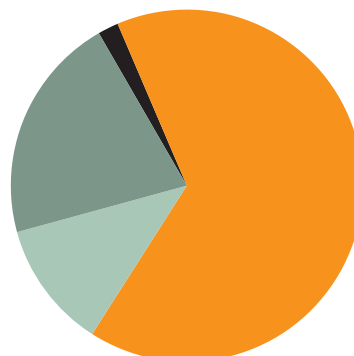
- Management and Finance Division17% of total funds
- Fish & Wildlife Division69.2% of total funds
- Parks Division13.8% of total funds



FWP DEPARTMENT REVENUE

This is an illustration of FWP's funding. Actual annual revenues from these sources may fall above or below the figures used here.

■ Statutory	.....\$1,737,319	.....1.9 %
■ Hunting and Fishing Licenses	.....\$58,730,794	.....65.4%
(33 percent derived from resident licenses and 67 percent from nonresident licenses)		
■ Other State Revenue	.....\$10,499,374	.....11.7%
■ Federal Funds	.....\$18,778,566	.....20.9%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	.....\$89,746,053	.....100%





Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Leadership

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Brian Schweitzer

FWP DIRECTOR

Joe Maurier

Learn more at fwp.mt.gov

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